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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Clive Smith) Examiner: Tran, Con P
)
Serial No.: 09/412,140) Art Unit: 2644
)
Filing Date: October 5, 1999) Re: Response
)
For: "Medical Device ...") Our Ref: 1062-104.US
)
) Date: August 10, 2004

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the office action mailed February 11, 2004. The Examiner is advised that a Petition for a three month extension, with fee based on small entity, accompanies this response.

In response to the Examiner, the following approach is taken to clarifying the invention, and responding to claim rejections:

- A. Inventive steps - Some key inventive steps embodied in the present invention, and presented in the Specification, are highlighted to Examiner, and compared to the prior art cited by Examiner.
- B. Detailed Examination of Prior Art, considering each claim rejection - Applicant responds to each claim rejection, analyzing the specific details of the cited prior art and elements therein, compared to the present invention, on a claim-by-claim basis.
- C. New Claims - Applicant submits redrafted claims to overcome Examiner rejections and further differentiate the present invention over cited prior art.